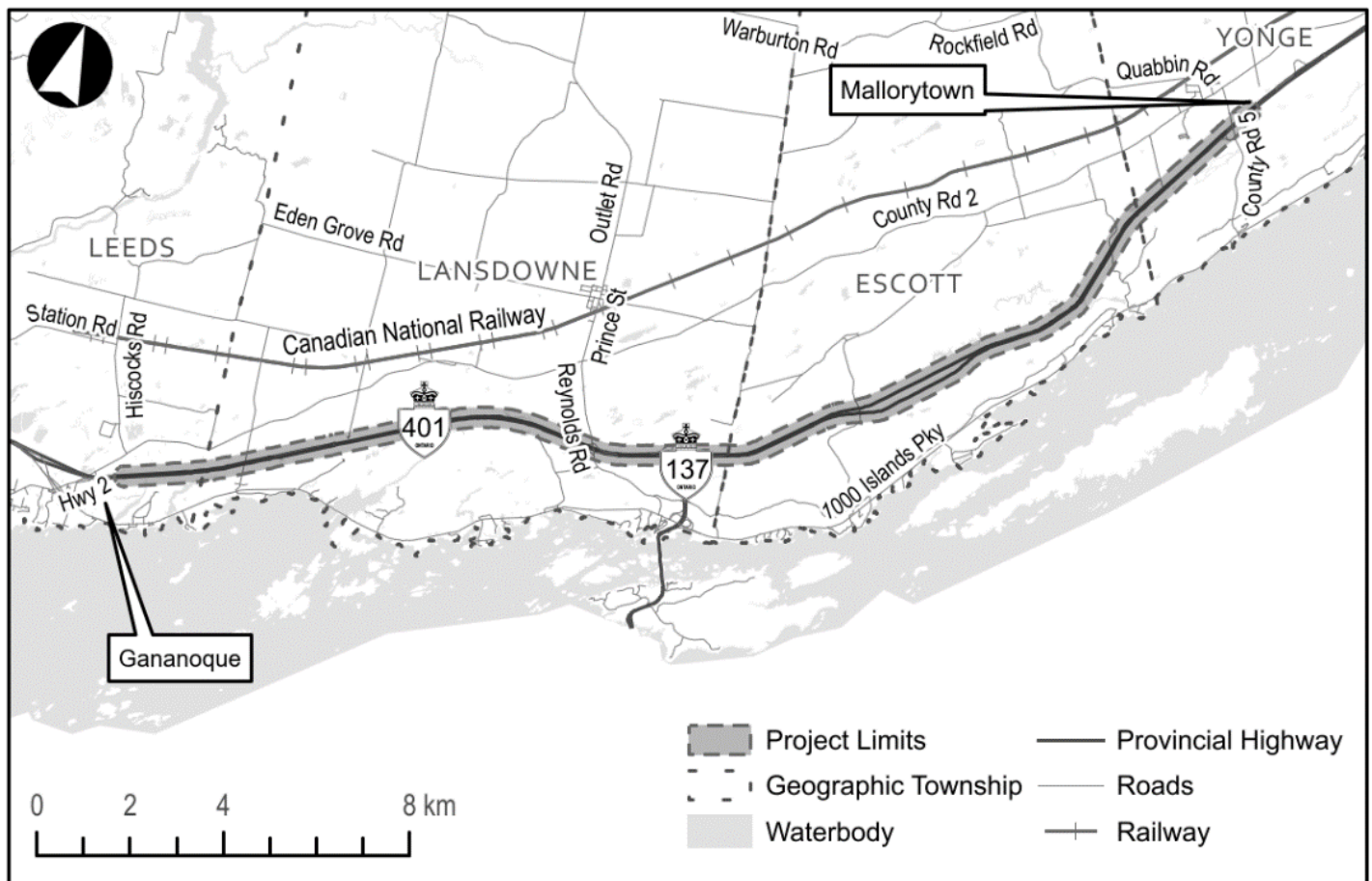


NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT

Highway 401 Improvements from 1 km East of Highway 2 / King Street to 2.78 km West of Mallorytown, Preliminary Design and Class Environmental Assessment Study (4050-22-00)

The Study

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) has retained AECOM Canada ULC to undertake a Planning Preliminary Design and Class Environmental Assessment (EA) Study along Highway 401 for the replacement and rehabilitation of bridges and culverts, interchange modifications, and establishing the future Highway 401 footprint for an interim six lanes and ultimate eight lanes, from 1 km east of Hwy 2 / King St to 2.78 km west of Mallorytown. The purpose of the Study is to identify a Recommended Plan that addresses current and future transportation needs in the Study Area as part of the Ministry's ongoing review of safety and operational needs for the provincial highway network. The Study Area falls within the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville, Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands, Front of Yonge Township, and Town of Gananoque.



The Process

This Study is following the approved planning process for a Group 'B' project in accordance with the MTO *Class EA for Provincial Transportation Facilities and Municipal Expressways, 2024 (Class EA)*. The Project Team will complete environmental and engineering field investigations and seek input from individuals, organizations, and Indigenous communities. The Project Team will also develop and evaluate alternative methods of carrying out the Project and outline environmental

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protection/mitigation measures. Two (2) Public Information Centres are planned at key milestones to provide stakeholders with the opportunity to view project materials and provide comments. Notices will also be sent to the project mailing list to provide individuals, organizations and Indigenous communities with the opportunity to learn about the project, view project materials and provide comments.

At the end of the Study, the Project Team will prepare a *Transportation Environmental Study Report* (TESR) that describes how the requirements of the Class EA were met; how the Project achieves the greatest overall transportation benefit while minimizing environmental impacts; other key decisions; consultation with individuals, organizations, and Indigenous communities; and commitments for consultation and environmental protection. The Project Team will issue a Notice of Completion, at which point there will be a 30-day comment period allowing for an opportunity to provide comments on the TERS. The Project Team will include comments received, responses to the comments and any supporting materials in a record of consultation. Documentation will be made available for viewing on the project website Hwy401GananoquetoMallorytown.ca, or/and at a physical location (yet to be determined).

Comments

You are encouraged to visit the Project website, www.Hwy401GananoquetoMallorytown.ca, where Project information including Study notices, background information, PIC displays and the TERS will be made available as the Study progresses. You are encouraged to participate in the Study and to provide comments in writing to the Project Team. If you wish to have your name added to the mailing list or have questions about the Study, please contact:

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Comments and information are being collected to assist the MTO in meeting the requirements of the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act*. Information will be collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. All comments will be maintained on file for use during the Study and, with the exception of personal information, may be included in Study documentation and become part of the public record. If you have any accessibility requirements in order to participate in this Study, please contact the Project Team as listed above.